

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

OMB-01 AID-05 /071 W

-----038241 070758Z /21

R 070601Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4628

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T SANA 2114

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: NEW GOVERNMENT IN YEMEN

BEGIN SUMMARY: YAR PRESIDENT GHASHMI'S PLANS TO MOVE QUICKLY AFTER HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY DESERTION OF ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM, FORMER COLLEAGUE ON COMMAND COUNCIL. END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN WEEK AFTER APPOINTIVE PARLIAMENT HAD ELECTED AHMAD HUSAYN AL-GHASHMI AS PRESIDENT OF YEMEN, PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED ITSELF UNTIL JULY.

2. ELECTION AS PRESIDENT INVOLVED AS IMPLICIT DEVELOPMENT DISSOLUTION OF COMMAND COUNCIL AND THEREFORE LOSS OF KEY POSITION FOR TWO SURVIVING COLLEAGUES OF GHASHMI ON COMMAND COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTER ABDAL AZIZ

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ABDAL GHANI AND PARATROOP COMMANDER ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM. ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI WAS IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM GOT ONLY A MEDAL (ORDER OF MARIB, SECOND CLASS ON ARMY DAY, 27 APRIL. WITH CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS OF HIS UNIT DISBURSED, HE WAS LEFT WITH LITTLE OR NO POWER AND SHATTERING BLOW TO HIS PRESTIGE. ON FRIDAY, 28 APRIL, DAY AFTER

BEAMING GHASHMI BESTOWED MEDAL ON HIM, ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM
ABSCONDED FROM SANA WITH SEVERAL TRUCKS OF AMMUNITION
AND SUPPLIES AND APPROXIMATELY 60 SOLDIERS FROM HIS COMPOUND.
IN THEIR HASTE TWO VEHICLES DROVE INTO EACH OTHER ON THE WAY
KILLING 9 PASSENGERS. IN TAIZ, GHASHMI COLLEAGUE ALI
ABDALLAH SALAH HALTED CONVOY WITH SHOW OF FORCE AND
STRIPPED OFF MACHIN GUN VEHICLES AND MOST AMMUNITION.
ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM PROCEED TO HIS HOME IN HUJARIYYA
PROVINCE SOUTH OF TAIZ SPURRING RUMORS IN SANA THAT HE HAD
GONE ACROSS BORDER TO PDRY AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO RAISE
PARATROOPERS AND SOUTHERNERS FOR RESTORATION OF HIS POWER.
WEEK HAS PROVEN, HOWEVER, THAT ABDAL ALIM HAS NO LINKS TO
OTHER POLITICIANS, MUCH LESS MILITARY OFFICERS IN YEMEN, AND
APPEARS TO BE MORE AFRAID FOR HIS LIFE THAN HE IS GAMBLER
FOR POSITION. DELEGATION SENT FROM SANA FOUND DRUNKEN AND
WEEPING YOUNG MAN WHO BARELY SHADOW OF HIS FORMER SWAG-
GERING SELF.

3. WITH THIS DENOUEMENT GHASHMI IS PREPARED TO BE
GENEROUS WITH ABDAL ALIM AND IS OFFERING
PLETHORA OF FOREIGN POSITIONS AND MORE COPIOUS
BRIBE MONEY WHICH SAUDIS PROVIDE IN SUCH ABUNDANCE.
MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT HIM TO MOVE ON QUICKLY TO
ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE
FEW CHANGES AMONG EXISTING MEMBERS BUT WILL HAVE
SOME NEW JOBS TO ACCOMMODATE NORTHERN CONSTITUENCIES
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WHICH GHASHMI IS DETERMINED TO BRING INTO
YEMEN GOVERNMENT.

COMMENT: GHASHMI HAS JUST SURMOUNTED YET ANOTHER
OBSTACLE IN HIS EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE PERSONAL
POWER OVER YAR. STILL HE REMAINS PERSON WITH LITTLE
POPULARITY AND FEW FIRM BACKERS. NO ONE EVER PRAISES
HIM. HIS STRENGTH SEEMS TO BE THAT ONE CAN CONCEIVE
OF AN ALTERNATIVE FOR THE MOMENT. WITH SIX MONTHS
BEHIND HIM NOW. HOWEVER, WE HAVE TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER SIX
MONTHS AT LEAST.
RANSOM

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NNN

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